



## Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense: Legislative Affairs

### *Legislative Update*

#### **ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE**

#### **DOD SUPPORT FOR HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005, AS OF 0540**

#### **ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)**

##### **Authorities**

- USACE conducts its emergency response activities under two basic authorities:
  - The Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Act (P.L. 84-99).
  - The Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288).

##### **Command and Control**

- Commander, USACE is Lieutenant General Strock in Washington, D.C.
- USACE Task Force Commander is Major General Don Riley in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) Commander is Brigadier General Crear in Vicksburg, Mississippi. His area of operations covers the States of Louisiana and Mississippi.
- South Atlantic Division Commander is Brigadier General Walsh in Atlanta, Georgia. His area of operations covers the States of Alabama and Florida.

##### **Operational Highlights**

- 1,666 USACE personnel are supporting relief operations. Current unwatering estimates:
  - Orleans (East Bank) – 02 Oct, Orleans East – 08 Oct, Chalmette and Chalmette Extension – 08 Oct, and 18 Oct for both Plaquemines basins. These dates are contingent on normal seasonal rainfall amounts.
  - TF Unwater has 39 of 174 permanent pumps operating throughout New Orleans and Plaquemines for a current flow of 11,760 CFS. An additional 46 auxiliary pumps are operating at 1,010 CFS.
  - Hydrogen plant continues to be our highest priority. Still removing large amount of debris at the inlet to PS #15. PS#15 flows increased from 250 to 700 CFS. Expect to install four additional pumps today, adding an additional 200 CFS.
  - Met Dutch team in Gulfport yesterday. They embarked upon a Dutch Navy ship and are enroute to link up with their equipment on the ground at New Orleans Naval Air Station. Looking forward to using their experience plus an additional 90 CFS.
  - The German team began working at PS #19 last night and is scheduled to move on to PS #3.
  - The toxic nature of the sludge is becoming more of a concern. Field personnel are taking extra precautions, i.e. protective clothing. Installing booms to assist in containment of material and working with EPA on this issue.
  - Actions for next 24 hours: We expect to add an additional 1,000 CFS at pump stations #3 and #7 in Orleans East Bank and 1,000 CFS in Plaquemines.



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- Water and Ice: 44,190,000 liters of water and 175,240,000 lbs of ice delivered to date.
  - We are now exceeding our water and ice demands. Working with FEMA to reduce.
- Debris:
  - Total debris removed in LA over past 24 hours: 94,000 CY. Estimated total requirements are 55M CY in LA and 15-20M CY in MS and 2M CY in AL.
  - Plaquemine Parish declined USACE assistance as of Sept 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - More Quality Assurance specialists arriving daily to assist.
- Roofing:
  - Collected 7,035 “Rights of Entry” in both MS and LA. Passed 1,888 to contractors and installed 535 to date.
- Power: 44 Prime Power soldiers working in the area.
  - Last 24 hours: Continued working assessments and generator installs in Mississippi and Louisiana.
    - We are experiencing problems with local personnel moving installed generators without coordination. This makes it difficult to properly maintain, refuel, and ultimately recover them.
    - Have completed 517 assessments and 130 generator installs to date.
  - Next 24 hours: Continue working to install power to permanent pumping stations, health facilities and to pumping stations around the hydrogen plant.
- Navigation:
  - Mississippi River is open to shallow draft traffic and deep draft vessels less than 39’ (daylight only). USACE and USN vessels are surveying the full reach of the deep draft channel and anticipate completing by Sept 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) remains non operational due to bridge closures and sunken barges. Contractor expects to remove barges and open bridges by mid-week.
- Housing:
  - We have completed the design review mission for FEMA Housing Area Command and are ready to perform quality assurance (QA).
  - We have completed dredging slips in Galveston for two cruise ships to dock and begin receiving evacuees.